

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): An optical pick-up apparatus comprising:

a light source for emitting laser light in two wavebands;

a light-receiving element for receiving laser light which is emitted from the light source and is reflected by an optical recording medium; and

a diffraction grating having polarization characteristics between the light source and the optical recording medium by which the laser light emitted from the light source and being incident is transmitted without diffraction when a polarization direction for the laser light is equal to a predetermined first polarization direction and also by which the laser light emitted from the light source and being incident is diffracted when a polarization direction for the laser light is equal to a predetermined second polarization direction,

the optical pick-up apparatus performing at least one of processes for reading information of the optical recording medium and recording information on the optical recording medium by irradiating the optical recording medium by the laser light emitted from the light source on the optical recording medium, and

the polarization directions of the laser lights in the two wavebands being orthogonal with each other on a position on which the laser light is incident on the diffraction grating,

wherein the light source emits the first and second polarization directional laser lights which are parallel to each other, and a half wavelength plate is arranged between the diffraction grating and the light source so as not to have an effect on a polarization direction for the second polarization

directional laser light and so as to change a polarization direction for the first polarization directional laser light.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): A semiconductor laser apparatus comprising:

a light source for emitting laser light in a plurality of wavebands and installed so that polarization directions of a plurality of laser lights emitted therefrom can be parallel to each other;

an optical axis conversion mirror for changing a traveling direction of laser light emitted from the light source and provided with a half wavelength plate for changing a polarization direction for laser light in one of wavebands; and

a light-receiving element for receiving reflected light of laser light which is emitted from the light source and is transmitted in one direction; and

a polarization diffraction grating having polarization characteristics by which diffraction efficiency for laser light in a predetermined first polarization direction is greater than diffraction

efficiency for laser light in a second polarization direction orthogonal to the first polarization direction.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A semiconductor laser apparatus comprising:

a light source for emitting laser light in a plurality of wavebands and installed so that polarization directions of a plurality of laser lights emitted therefrom can be parallel to each other;

an optical axis conversion mirror for changing a traveling direction of laser light emitted from the light source and provided with a half wavelength plate for changing a polarization direction for laser light in one of wavebands; and

a light-receiving element for receiving reflected light of laser light which is emitted from the light source and is transmitted in one direction; and

a hologram for diffracting reflected light of laser light transmitted in one direction into a direction of the light-receiving element,

the hologram having polarization characteristics by which diffraction efficiency for laser light in a predetermined first polarization direction is greater than diffraction efficiency for laser light in a second polarization direction orthogonal to the first polarization direction.

Claim 15 (canceled)